

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, May 7, 2004

MPDC STARTS SUMMER CRIME INITIATIVE

Concerned that some crimes tend to increase during the warmer months, the MPDC this past week initiated its Summer Crime Initiative, a multi-pronged strategy for addressing crime and disorder problems over the next few months. The Summer Crime Initiative includes both enhanced visibility measures and neighborhood-specific strategies to combat high-priority crimes in each of our seven police districts. More officers will be deployed in designated “hot spots” – areas of significant crime, violence and drug activity. Some of these additional officers are the result of the Summer Mobile Force, a group of officers who volunteer to work in an overtime capacity targeting hot spots and other problem areas during high-crime periods. The Summer Mobile Force is in addition to the MPDC’s regular “redeployment program,” in which officers in administrative or operational support assignments spend one week out of every eight in uniform in an operational assignment. Other stepped-up visibility measures this summer include deployment of Open-Air MiniStations, outdoor roll calls, foot and bicycle patrols, and more Compliance Safety Checks targeting traffic safety violations. These and other enforcement efforts are being coupled with increased prevention programs for youth, including the “40 Days of Increased Peace” initiative, as well as summer camps, “play streets” and other youth-oriented initiatives. For information about the Summer Crime Initiative strategies and activities in your community, contact your local police district.

- ① To see what district you live in, go to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/districts.shtm>
- ① To find out more about the Open-Air MiniStations—and to request one in your community this summer—go to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/programs/ministationfaq.shtm>

Q & A ON THE NEW PSA SYSTEM

What PSAs and districts are most affected by the recent restructuring? Why are the PSAs changing? And aren’t the new PSAs too big? What is the staffing in the new PSAs, and how were those decisions made? How are community meetings and other ongoing Policing for Prevention activities affected by the changes? These are some of the questions that residents have been asking about the recent changes made to the district’s Police Service Areas (or PSAs). In an attempt to improve police services in DC neighborhoods, the MPDC reconfigured its system of PSAs effective May 2. The new PSAs are designed to more closely match the natural boundaries of DC neighborhoods, and PSA team leaders are being given the staffing flexibility to more effectively handle the full range of police services on their PSAs, including responding to calls for service, targeting problem areas and working with the community on crime intervention and prevention strategies. Changes to the PSA boundaries have resulted in changes to the boundaries of some police districts as well.

- ① Answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about the new PSA structure have been posted on the MPDC website at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/PSA_new_FAQ.shtm
- ① The MPDC website has been updated with the latest roster of PSA team leaders. Click on the “District Roster” page for your police district, accessible from:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/districts.shtm>
- ① Still have a question about the new PSA structure? Contact MPDC Policy Analyst Anne Grant at (202) 727-0915 or via e-mail at:
anne.grant@dc.gov

SERIOUS CRIME DOWN SHARPLY IN APRIL; YEAR-TO-DATE REDUCTION EXCEEDS 10 PERCENT

Reports of all categories of serious crime in DC declined during April, including a nearly 35 percent reduction in homicides and a 27 percent drop in robberies, according to preliminary crime statistics from the MPDC. The preliminary data show that serious crime overall declined 18.6 percent last month, when compared with the same period of 2003. Homicides fell from 26 to 17 during this period, a 34.6 percent drop. Double-digit reductions were recorded in every crime category last month, except for theft, which declined by 4.3 percent. Through the first four months of 2004, preliminary data show that crime was down by 10.6 percent when compared with similar data from January-April 2003. Homicides were down almost 24 percent so far this year. Sexual assaults (-30%), robberies (23%), burglaries (-18%) and thefts from auto (-16%) were also down sharply, according to the preliminary statistics. The only crime type that increased during the first four months of the year was arson, which rose 3 percent. Crime declined last month in six of the seven police districts, and only the Second District has recorded an increase in year-to-date crime.

CHIEF'S CITIZEN ADVISORY COUNCIL ANNOUNCES EFFORT TO HELP DC YOUTH THIS SUMMER

The Chief of Police's Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) has announced an ambitious effort to raise \$25,000 to help at-risk youth in the District this summer—and beyond. This summer, the money will be used to send 70 or more underprivileged youth to summer camp (a minimum of 10 youth from each of the seven police districts). Long-term, the funds will be used to build two new cabins at Camp Ernest W. Brown, in Scotland, Maryland. Camp Brown is sponsored by the Metropolitan Police Boys and Girls Clubs, a component of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington, and it is staffed by MPDC officers and other personnel. These activities are being conducted in memory of Joseph K. Smith, a former CAC member and longtime activist in support of DC youth. As part of this fund-raising effort, the Memorial Summer Camp Fund, under the direction of the CAC, is holding a dinner on Friday, June 4, from 6:30-10 pm, at the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family, 4250 Harewood Road, NE. Tickets for the dinner are \$35 each, and ad space is available in the Souvenir Booklet. For more information or to support this youth crime prevention effort, contact George W. Fenderson of the Chief's CAC, at (202) 291-6727.

NEWS & NOTES

Reward Increased in Chelsea Cromartie Murder. Chief Ramsey has doubled—to up to \$50,000—the reward for information leading to an arrest and conviction in the May 3 homicide of 8-year-old Chelsea Cromartie by a stray bullet as she played in a relative's home in Northeast. Individuals with any information about this case are encouraged to call police at (202) 727-9099. Additional details, including a reward poster, are at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2691>.

National Police Week. Thousands of police officers from across the US will be joining members of the MPDC and our supporters in the community for National Police Week activities, May 9-15, in Washington, DC. National Police Week honors law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. A complete schedule of Police Week activities can be found at <http://www.nleomf.com>.

Summer Boating Events. The MPDC Harbor Patrol announces that a variety of boating events will be taking place this summer. Details at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/season/harborevents.shtm>

① View preliminary crime data for each of the seven police district and for the District as a whole by visiting:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/crstats_readthis.shtm

① To learn how you and your neighbors can help prevent crime, visit the MPDC's "Safety Tips" page at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/tips.shtm>

① Learn more about the Metropolitan Police Boys and Girls Clubs at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/family/mpbgc.shtm>

① For information about Citizens Advisory Councils, including the Chief's CAC, go to:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/services_cac.shtm

DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 5/7/04)

- 2004: 69
- 2003: 88
- % Change: -21.6%
- Closure Rate: 56.5% (39 closures)

Adult Arrests (week end. 5/1/04)

- Total: 823
- Drugs: 127
- Weapons: 17
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 12
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 25

Firearm Recoveries (as of 5/4/04)

- May: 27
- 2004 Total: 728

Traffic Fatalities (as of 5/7/04)

- 2004: 21
- 2003: 18
- % Change: +16.7%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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